

THE EVENING TRIBUNE

CHICAGO, MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1871.

THE GREAT CALAMITY OF THE AGE!

Chicago in Ashes!!

Hundreds Of Millions of Dol-
lars' Worth of Property
Destroyed.

The South, the North and a Portion
of the West Divisions of
the City in Ruins.

All the Hotels, Banks, Public
Buildings, Newspaper Offices
and Great Business
Blocks Swept Away.

The Conflagration Still in Progress.

Fury of the Flames.

Details, Etc., Etc.

Chicago is burning! Up to this hour of writing (10 o'clock p. m.) the best part of the city is already in ashes! An area of between six and seven miles in length and nearly a mile in width, embracing the great business part of the city, has been thrown over and now lies a mass of smoldering ruins!

All the principal hotels, all the public buildings, all the banks, all the newspaper offices, all the places of amusement, nearly all the great business edifices, nearly all the railroad depots, the water works, the gas works, several churches, and thousands of private residences are stores have been consumed. The proud, noble magnificent City of yesterday, is today a mere shadow of what it was; and, helpless before the all-sweeping flames, the fear is that the entire city will be consumed before we shall see the end.

The entire South Division, from Harrison street north to the river, about the entire North Division, from the river to Lincoln Park, and several blocks in the West Division are burned.

It is utterly impossible to estimate the losses. They must be the aggregate amount to hundreds of millions of dollars. Amid the confusion and general bewilderment, we can only give a few details.

The fire broke out on the corner of Dearborn and Twelfth streets, at about 9 o'clock on a Friday

evening, being caused by a cow kicking over a lamp in a stable in which a woman was milking. An alarm was immediately given, but, owing to the high southwest wind, the building was speedily consumed, and thence the fire spread rapidly. The firemen could not, with all their efforts, cut the mastery of the flames. Building after building was fired by the flying cinders, which, landing on the roofs, which were as dry as tinder, owing to the protracted dry weather, instantly took fire. Northwardly and northwesterly the flames took their course, lapping up house after house, block after block, street after street, all night long.

The scene of ruin and devastation is beyond the power of words to describe. Never, in the history of the world, has such a scene of extended, terrible and complete destruction, by conflagration, been recorded; and never has a more frightful scene of panic, distress and horror been witnessed among a helpless, sorrowing, suffering population.

It is utterly impossible, at the first thought, for the mind to take in any conception of the fearful ravages of the fire-demon, although the astounding facts stated above are enough to appal the most heroic. The awful ruin of the city is now more fully comprehended by a glance at the following very imperfect list of what has been lost. It is, however, proper to state that, at the writing, the confusion in the police and fire departments is so complete as to render it impossible to give anything like a detailed account of the terrible conflagration.

PARTIAL DETAILS OF THE LOSSES.

The first to be mentioned, and possibly the most startling feature of this carnival of flames, is the total destruction of the City Water Works, by which calamity the firemen are rendered helpless to make the least endeavor to arrest the onward march of the devouring element. Should any other fire occur in parts of the city not hitherto, they most certainly have their way. At about 12 o'clock last night the sheet of flames licked across the river in the neighborhood of Jackson street, first lighting a small wooden building, which communicated the fire to the Armory, and soon to the South Side Gas Works, the immense gasometer exploding with a fearful detonation, board all over the city. Then commenced the fearful ravages which in a few hours laid the entire South side in ashes, north of Harrison. The Post Office and Custom House, the Chamber of Commerce, the Court House and the rest soon went down in the ocean of fire and smoke. In brief, the fall-wing prominent buildings have perished with, in almost every case, their entire contents, the New Jerusalem Church, on Adams street, and the Catholic Church, on Desplantes street.

The National office, the Tribune, the Times, the Republican, the Post, the Mail, the States Zeitung, the Union, and many other publications.

Crosby's Opera-House, McVicker's Theater, Hooley's Opera-House, Denbarn Theater, and Wood's Museum.

First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Union, Northwestern, Manufacturers' Cook County, and Illinois National Banks.

The National Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's Universalist Church, Trinity (Episcopal) Church, The magnificent depot of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific and Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroads, on Van Buren street, at the head of La Salle street. The great Central Union depot, and the Wells street depots of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad.

The National Elevator, corner of Adams and the river, Armer, Dole & Co's Elevator, corner Market and the river, Hiram Wheeler's Elevator, on same corner as the above, the Gelens Elevator, corner Rush street bridge and river, and "A" of the Illinois Central, near the Illinois Depot, at the basin.

Tremont House, Sherman House, Briggs House, Metropolitan, Palmer, Adams, Bigelow, European, (Herk), Garden City, and the new Pacific, in process of erection, on Clark and La Salle streets.

The following prominent business houses are in ashes: Field, Leith and Co. J. V. Perwell's block, and all the magnificent blocks in that locality.

The Lake Side Publishing Company's new building, on Clark street, Terrace Row, on Michigan Av. and adjacent residences.

Farwell Hall burned at about four o'clock this morning.

The great breweries, on the North Side, are gone.

In fact, as stated above, the entire South and North sides, from Harrison street, northwardly, with a few isolated buildings left standing in some remarkable manner, are in hopeless ruins.

HELP COMING.

During the night, telegrams were sent to St. Louis, Cleveland, Milwaukee and nearer cities for aid, and at the time of going to press several trains are on the way to the city, bringing fire engines and men to assist us in this dire calamity.

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Board of Trade has leased for present use the northwest corner of Washington and Canal streets. We call attention to the card accompanying a meeting of the Directors of the Chicago Board of Trade, to-morrow morning, at 10 o'clock, at 51 and 53 Canal street.

COUNCIL MEETING—A PROCLAMATION.

The Common Council and a number of of prominent citizens are holding a meeting this afternoon in the First Congregational Church, to make such arrangements as may be possible for the safety of the city.

The Mayor has issued a proclamation that all fires in stores in the city shall be extinguished.

THE EVENING JOURNAL.

We are under great obligations to the Interior Printing Company, 15 and 15 Canal street, for accommodations by which we are enabled to issue the Extra. We hope before many days, to be able to announce permanent arrangements for issuing THE EVENING JOURNAL regularly. We have saved a portion of our subscription books, and hope to be able to resume publication without great delay.

**The Chicago
BOARD OF TRADE
HAVE
THEIR ROOMS
AT
51 and 53
CANAL ST.**

There will be a Meeting
of the Directors of
the Chicago

BOARD OF TRADE

AT
51 and 53 Canal St.

To-morrow, 10th, at
10 o'clock.

J. W. PRESTON,
President.